Senior Officer of Ministry of Rural Development in Foreign Agencies/Organisation

3083. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY;

DR. SANJAYA SINH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any effort to dilute the thrust of rural development programmes on the suggestions from international financial agencies directly or indirectly;

(b) whether it is a fact that many senior officers of Rural Development Ministry have served for long periods in foreign and international organisations;

(c) if so, how many officers above the rank of Deputy Secretary in this Ministry who have worked for more than one year in an international organisation; and

(d) whether any steps are being taken to ensure that policy is not influenced by foreign agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Amongst the officers at Director level and above, presently working in this Ministry, only one officer has worked for more than one year in ESCAP, United Nations.

(d) Does not arise.

Connection of Roads of the Eastern States

3084. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA
SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is also a fact that most of the eastern states including Bihar and Orissa are not well connected with block level and village link roads; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to connect all villages of Bihar by roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development does not maintain information in respect of connecting roads at the block level and village link roads in the states.

(b) Construction of roads is a state subject under Minimum Needs Programme and funds for the same are provided in the State Plan Budget.

Adoption of the Three-Tier Panchayati Raj System

3085. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to ask the States to adopt the 3-Tier Panchayati Raj System, if so, by when this is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): Yes, Sir. The Constitution (Seventy-Second Amendment) Bill, 1991, which has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament provided that there shall be constituted in every State, Panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels. However, Panchayats at the intermediate level may not be constituted in a State having population not exceeding twenty lakhs. Within one year from the commencement of the above Act, States would be required to amend their Panchayats Act accordingly.